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COMMISSION INVITES COMMENTS CONCERNING USE OF PORTIONS OF RETURNED 2 GHz MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICE FREQUENCIES

IB DOCKET NO. 05-220

Recently, three 2 GHz mobile satellite service (MSS)¹ satellite operators surrendered their authorizations--Iridium LLC (Iridium) on March 16, 2005, The Boeing Company (Boeing) on March 28, 2005, and Celsat America, Inc. (Celsat) on April 12, 2005.² As a result, there are now two satellite operators authorized to provide MSS in the 2 GHz band, ICO Satellite Services (ICO), and TMI Communications and Company Limited Partnership (TMI), and there is unassigned spectrum in those bands. Several parties have already submitted letters to the Commission recommending various uses for the newly available spectrum, or addressing other issues related to those recommendations.³

We intend to modify the spectrum reservations of ICO and TMI, consistent with the Commission's authority with respect to licensees under Section 316 of the Communications Act,⁴ such that ICO and TMI each will have one-third of the forty megahertz of spectrum in the 2 GHz MSS bands.⁵ Consistent with Section 316, ICO and TMI may file with respect to this modification within 30 days. Also consistent with Section 316 a copy of this Public Notice is being served on ICO and TMI. Any

¹ The spectrum designated for 2 GHz MSS is the 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz bands. Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, including Third Generation Wireless Systems, *Third Report and Order, Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Second Memorandum Opinion and Order*, ET Docket No. 00-258, 18 FCC Rcd 2223 (2003) (*Third AWS Order*).

² Letter from Peter D. Shields, Counsel to Iridium, to Secretary, FCC (dated Mar. 16, 2005); Letter from Joseph P. Markoski and Bruce A. Olcott, Counsel for The Boeing Company, to Secretary, FCC (dated Mar. 28, 2005). Letter from David D. Otten, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Celsat, to Secretary, FCC (dated Apr. 12, 2005).

³ Letter from Gregory C. Staple, Counsel for TMI, to Donald Abelson, Chief, International Bureau (dated Apr. 19, 2005); Letter from Suzanne Hutchings Malloy, Senior Regulatory Counsel for ICO, to Donald Abelson, Chief, International Bureau (dated May 3, 2005); Letter from Diane Cornell, CTIA, to Secretary, FCC (dated May 19, 2005); Letter from Gregory C. Staple, Counsel for TMI, to Secretary, FCC (dated May 24, 2005); Letter from Diane Cornell, CTIA, to Secretary, FCC (dated June 1, 2005).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 316.

⁵ The remaining third of the 2 GHz MSS band spectrum will be addressed separately.

licensee or permittee who believes its license will be modified by the proposed action may also protest the proposed action. Although we are not required to seek additional comment under Section 316, we find in this case that it would be in the public interest to do so.

Comments are due **14 days** after this public notice is released, and replies are due **10 days** after comments are due.

Ex Parte Presentations. This is a permit-but-disclose proceeding. *Ex parte* presentations are permitted, provided they are disclosed as provided in Sections 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a).

Comments. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.⁶ Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of the proceeding, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number, in this case, **IB Docket No. 05-220**. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). **Parties are strongly encouraged to file comments electronically using the Commission's ECFS.**

The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002.

- The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners.
- Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties shall also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via e-mail to fcc@bcpiweb.com.

Documents in IB Docket No. **05-220** are available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th St. SW, Room CY-A257,

⁶ See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, Report and Order, GC Docket No. 97-113, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

Washington, DC 20554. The documents may also be purchased from BCPI, telephone (202) 488-5300, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, e-mail fcc@bcpiweb.com.

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